

ONTARIO HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

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August, 1967.

19th ANNUAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONS FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The 19th Annual Conference of Commissions for Human Rights was held in Toronto from July 4 to 8, 1967, with the Ontario Human Rights Commission acting as host. Some 200 delegates, representing 80 provincial, state and municipal human rights commissions and federal agencies in Canada and the United States, as well as representatives from the United Kingdom, gathered in Toronto to exchange experiences regarding the administration of human rights legislation in their respective jurisdictions. In addition to the official delegates, some 50 observers from Canadian government and voluntary agencies concerned about human rights attended the proceedings. Canadian perspective was provided in the workshops by the participation of resource persons from 20 Canadian human rights agencies, ethnic groups and community organizations.

Some 700 persons heard the Honourable Mr. Justice Bora Laskin of the Court of Appeal of Ontario address the official banquet on Thursday, July 6th. The Honourable Dalton Bales, Q.C., Ontario Minister of Labour, presided over this session.

An historic turning point was reached during the Toronto conference with the birth of a new organization. The International Association of Official Human Rights Agencies came into existence, replacing the former Conference of Commissions for Human Rights.

The 1968 conference will be held in Portland, Oregon.

TWO BOARDS OF INQUIRY SETTLED IN TORONTO

Two Boards of Inquiry were convened in Toronto on June 27th for the purpose of inquiring into cases of alleged racial discrimination in Metropolitan Toronto. His Honour, Judge L. A. Deziel was appointed a Board of Inquiry in these cases. Counsel for the Commission was E. Marshall Pollock, Department of the Attorney General. In each case, settlements were reached.

1. A case of alleged discrimination involving Mr. Milton Saunders, Mr. Stanley Bolton and Mrs. Katharine Bolton. Mr. Saunders, a Negro, alleged that he was refused occupancy of a dwelling unit at 460 Lawrence Avenue West, Toronto 19, by Mr. Stanley Bolton and Mrs. Katharine Bolton, the owners. Mr. Bolton stated at the hearing that there was no intention on the part of either himself or Mrs. Bolton to discriminate against the complainant. They undertook to abide by the Ontario Human Rights Code and to post a copy of the Code in their building. The complainants were invited to apply for a future vacancy.
2. A case of alleged discrimination involving Mr. Edmund Mallett and Top O' the Ridge, a Scarborough apartment building. Mr. Mallett, a Negro, alleged that he was denied occupancy of a dwelling unit at 1827 Victoria Park Avenue, Scarborough, by Mr. and Mrs. Jules Houle, building superintendents, and Mr. Alexander Lysy, rental agent and co-owner of this building. Under the terms of the settlement, Mr. Lysy agreed to the following:

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- (1) A letter of apology to the complainant, expressing regret for any embarrassment or inconvenience caused him, and offering him the next available apartment suitable to his needs.
- (2) A letter to the Chairman of the Ontario Human Rights Commission assuring him of his compliance with the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- (3) A letter to all of the owners, superintendents and rental personnel of all buildings for which he is the rental agent, advising them of his non-discriminatory rental policy and indicating to those individuals acting as superintendents or rental personnel that any breach of this policy will be treated as grounds for dismissal.
- (4) Agreement to post the Ontario Human Rights card in his offices and in all buildings for which he acts as rental agent.
- (5) A letter to community organizations concerned about this complaint, advising them of his non-discriminatory policy.
- (6) Agreement that the Ontario Human Rights Commission may make such follow-up investigations as may seem advisable and that Mr. Lysy will offer every assistance to the Commission in these efforts.

HOUSING DISCRIMINATION CASE SETTLED PRIOR TO BOARD

A case of alleged discrimination involving Miss Eldynie Tracey and Mr. and Mrs. Nicholas Janischewsky-Kairez, was scheduled for hearing before Judge L. A. Deziel. The respondent agreed to satisfactory terms of settlement precluding the need for a hearing. Miss Tracey, a Negro woman, alleged that she was refused occupancy of a dwelling unit at Park View Apartments, 263 Russell Hill Road, Toronto, by Mr. and Mrs. Janischewsky-Kairez, the owners. Mr. and Mrs. Kairez, in agreeing to a settlement, undertook the following:

- (1) Assurances to the Commission that their policy is to abide by the Ontario Human Rights Code.
- (2) An expression of regret to Miss Tracey for any inconvenience and embarrassment caused her.
- (3) Letters to their building superintendents instructing them to abide by the Ontario Human Rights Code and warning them that any violation of the Code will result in their dismissal.
- (4) The posting of Ontario Human Rights Code cards in prominent locations in their buildings.
- (5) Agreement to advise the Commission of the next bachelor apartment vacancy with the understanding that Miss Tracey will be invited to take it.

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NORTHWESTERN ONTARIO INDIANS RECEIVE VACATION PAY

The Northern Regional Office of the Ontario Human Rights Commission has reported to the Northwestern Ontario Association of Indians on alleged discrimination and exploitation of Indian workers employed by Manitoba contractors at Fort Hope, Deer Lake, Pikangikum, Big Trout Lake and Sachigo Lake in northwestern Ontario.

A fact-finding investigation, which ended in a settlement, was conducted by Mr. J. C. Campbell, Director of the Labour Standards Branch of the Ontario Department of Labour, and by representatives of the federal Department of Labour. The settlement resulted in the obtaining of vacation pay owing to 142 Indian employees and \$1,143.01 was collected from the Manitoba-based construction firms of A. K. Penner, B. F. Klassen, and T. Zelmer.

The Commission has received strong recommendations that educational programs to inform Indian workers of their legal entitlements regarding working conditions, vacation pay, wages, workmen's compensation protection, safety regulations and employment discrimination should be carried out in reservation communities. These recommendations have been accepted and work is proceeding in this area.

Indian organizations in Ontario have communicated their satisfaction to the Commission and the Department of Labour for bringing about the settlement.

APOLOGY TO INDIANS

The ethnic identity of individuals involved with the law will not be mentioned in broadcasts of CKPR radio and television. This is the assurance issued by that Port Arthur news medium recently at the conclusion of the conciliation of complaints submitted by the Northwestern Ontario Association of Indians, the Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada and private individuals.

The complaints resulted from news reports carried by CKPR in which individuals were identified as Indians.

Mr. Xavier Michon, President of the Northwestern Ontario Indian Association and Managing Director of the Indian Youth Friendship Centre in Port Arthur, expressed his concern in a letter to the Commission.

"In my work with Indian young people, I have come to realize the importance of the image which they must cope with . . . in employment and in terms of social contacts . . . Believe me, these decent young people need all the help and co-operation that responsible white people can give them. With this co-operation, I know they would be able to face their difficult futures with hope and courage. That's all they ask."

Following the conciliation efforts of the Commission, CKPR broadcast its assurances . . . "That ethnic and racial identification in news broadcasts is certainly not the policy of this station. The instances in which this has occurred are to be regretted, and apologies are made for any personal slight which was not intended. CKPR hopes that the Northwestern Ontario Indian Association and the Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada, which has also expressed concern, will accept the statement of policy of the station and receive CKPR's assurance that there will be no further incidents of this sort."

The Ontario Human Rights Commission has commended the representatives of the Northwestern Ontario Association of Indians, Indian-Eskimo Association of Canada and the management of CKPR for their concern for human rights and intergroup relations in our community and for their excellent co-operation in the satisfactory resolution of this matter.

NEW PAMPHLET ON AGE DISCRIMINATION ACT

The Commission has published a new pamphlet dealing with the Age Discrimination Act. Entitled, The Older Worker, the pamphlet deals with the role of the older worker in the present-day economy. Copies are available upon request and without charge from any office of the Ontario Human Rights Commission.

CANADIAN NATIONAL EXHIBITION

The Commission has a new and interesting exhibit this year at the Canadian National Exhibition held in Toronto from August 18th to September 4th. The exhibit is located in the Better Living Centre and is staffed by Miss Cathy Hickling and Miss Olivia Grange. The public is invited to visit the exhibit and obtain copies of the Commission's literature.

COMMISSION CASE LOAD DOUBLES

Over one hundred formal complaints of discrimination based on race, colour, religion and nationality have been investigated by Commission staff from the first of this year through the month of July, 1967.

Employers and unions were named in 56 cases of employment discrimination during this period; landlords and real estate agents were named in 45; and proprietors in places of public accommodation were implicated in 34.

During the same seven month period, the Commission's case load consisted of:

- a) 158 complaints from women alleging they are paid at a rate of pay less than that to fellow male employees doing the same work.
- b) 29 complaints of employment discrimination based on age.
- c) 40 complaints of disallowed employment advertisements and pre-employment inquiries.
- d) 6 complaints of discriminatory notices and signs.

At the same time the Commission dealt with 78 informal complaints of discrimination and 1,000 miscellaneous complaints and referrals. The total of almost 1,500 complaints represents more than double the figure for the same period of the previous year.

